

MIT Small Satellite Center Seminar, Fall 2019

The Globalization of Space: Changing Demographics of the Satellite Orbital Population

Dr. Jonathan McDowell,
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Noon on Monday, October 7th 2019

MIT 31-115, MIT LL Beaverworks

Lunch provided, first-come, first-served

*MIT Small Satellite Center Lightning Talks and Networking will
immediately follow the seminar from 1:00 until 2:00 pm*

Email smallsat@mit.edu to ask if 3-min talk slots or posters are still available.

Abstract: The space race isn't what it used to be. What started off as a competition between superpower governments has become a free-for-all with dozens of countries and many commercial and non-profit entities. I'll review the changes decade by decade as the space arena progressively internationalized, commercialized and then democratized; discuss quantitatively how much stuff is in space now, who's putting it there, and what it's up to. I'll also discuss the population of satellites in special orbits such as the geostationary and sun-synchronous regimes.



Speaker Bio: McDowell has a BA in Mathematics (1981) from Churchill College and a PhD in Astrophysics (1986) from the Institute of Astronomy, both at the University of Cambridge, England. McDowell is a staff member at the Chandra X-ray Center, and author of the widely followed **Jonathan's Space Report**: <https://www.planet4589.org/space/jsr/jsr.html>